NUMB. CCXXXIX.

The SPECTATOR.

——*Bella, horrida Bella!* Virg.

Tuesday, December 4. 1711.

I have ſometimes amuſed my ſelf with conſidering the ſeveral Methods of managing a Debate, which have obtained in the World.

The firſt Races of Mankind uſed to diſpute, as ordinary People do now-a-days, in a kind of Logick, uncultivated by Rules of Art.

Socrates introduced a Catachetical Method of Arguing. He would ask his Adverſary Queſtion upon Queſtion, till he had convinced him out of his own Mouth that his Opinions were wrong. This Method of debating drives an Enemy up into a Corner, ſeizes all the Paſſes through which he can make an Eſcape, and forces him to ſurrender at diſcretion.

Ariſtotle changed this Method of Attack, and introduced a great variety of little Weapons, called Syllogiſms. As in the *Socratic* way of Diſpute you conſider every thing which your Opponent advances, in the *Ariſtotelic* you are ſtill denying and contradicting ſome part or other of what he ſays. *Socrates* conquers you by Stratagem, *Ariſtotle* by Force: The one takes the Town by Sapp, the other Sword in Hand.

The Univerſities of *Europe*, for many Years, carried on their Debates by Syllogiſm, inſomuch that the whole Knowledge of ſeveral Centuries laid out in Objections and Anſwers, and all the good Senſe of the Age cut and minced into almoſt an infinite Number of Diſtinctions.

When our Univerſities found that there was no End of wrangling this way, they invented a kind of Argument, which is not reducible to any Mood or Figure in *Ariſtotle*. It was called the *Argumentum Baculinum* (others write it *Bacilinum* and *Baculinum*) which is pretty well expreſſed in our *Engliſh* Word Cudgel. When they were not able to confute their Antagoniſt, they knock'd him down. It was a Method in theſe Political Debates firſt to diſcharge their Syllogiſms, and afterwards to betake themſelves to their Clubs, till ſuch time as they had Wit or other confounded their Gainſayers. There is in *Oxford* a narrow Defilé, (to make uſe of a Military Term) where the Partiſans uſed to encounter, for which Reaſon it ſtill retains the Name of *Logic Lane*. I have heard an old Gentleman, a Phyſician, make his Boaſts, that when he was a young Fellow he marched ſeveral times at the Head of a Troop of *Scotiſts*, and Cudgell'd a Troop of *Smigleſians* half the length of *High-ſtreet*; who had diſperſed themſelves for Shelter in the adjacent Garriſons.

Rabelais Humour, I find, went very far in *Eraſmus*'s Time; for that Author tells us, That upon the Revival of *Greek* Letters, moſt of the Univerſities in *Europe* were divided into *Greeks* and *Trojans*. The latter were thoſe who bore a mortal Enmity to the Language of the *Grecians*, inſomuch that if they met with any who underſtood it, they did not fail to treat him as a Foe. *Eraſmus* himſelf had, it ſeems, the Misfortune to fall into the Hands of a Party of *Trojans*, who laid him on with ſo many Blows and Buffets, that he never forgot their Hoſtilities to his dying Day.

There is a way of managing an Argument not much unlike the former, which is made uſe of by States and Communities, when they draw up a Hundred thouſand Diſputants on each ſide, and convince one another by dint of Sword. A certain grand Monarch was ſo ſenſible of his Strength in this way of Reaſoning, that he writ upon his great Guns —— *Ratio ultima Regum*. The Logick of Kings. But God be thanked he is now pretty well baffled at his own Weapons. When one has to do with a Philoſopher of this kind, one ſhou'd remember the old Gentleman's Saying who had been engaged in an Argument with one of the *Roman* Emperors. Upon his Friend's telling him, That he wonder'd he wou'd give up the Queſtion, when he had viſibly the better of the Diſpute, *I am never aſhamed*, ſays he, *to be Confuted by one who is Maſter of Fifty Legions*.

I ſhall but juſt mention another kind of Reaſoning, which may be called Arguing by Poll; and another which is of equal force, in which Wagers are made uſe of as Arguments, according to the celebrated Line in *Hudibras*.

But the moſt notable way of managing a Controverſy is that which we may call *Arguing by Torture*. This is a Method of Reaſoning which has been made uſe of with the poor Refugees, and which was ſo faſhionable in our Country during the Reign of Queen *Mary*, that in a Paſſage of an Author quoted by Monſieur *Bayle*, it is ſaid, the Price of Wood was raiſed in *England*, by reaſon of the Executions that were made in *Smithfield*. Theſe Diſputants convince their Adverſaries with a *Sorites* commonly called a Pile of Faggots. The Rack is alſo a kind of Syllogiſm which has been uſed with good Effect, and has made multitudes of Converts. Men were formerly diſputed out of their Doubts, reconciled to Truth by force of Reaſon, and won over to Opinions by the Candour, Senſe and Ingenuity of thoſe who had the Right of their Side; but this method of Conviction operated too ſlowly. Pain was found to be much more Enlightning than Reaſon. Every Scruple was look'd upon as Obſtinacy, and not to be removed but by ſeveral Engines invented for that purpoſe. In a Word, the Application

cation of Whips, Racks, Gibbets, Gallies, Dungeons, Fire and Faggot, in a Diſpute, may be looked upon as Popiſh Refinements upon the old Heathen Logick.

There is another way of Reaſoning which ſeldom fails, tho' it be of a quite different Nature to that I have laſt mentioned. I mean convincing a Man by ready Mony, or, as it is ordinarily called, Bribing a Man to an Opinion. This Method has often proved ſucceſsful, when all the others have been made uſe of to no purpoſe. A Man who is furniſhed with Arguments from the *Mint*, will convince his Antagoniſt much ſooner than one who draws them from Reaſon and Philoſophy. Gold is a wonderful Clearer of the Underſtanding: It diſſipates every Doubt and Scruple in an Inſtant: Accommodates it ſelf to the meaneſt Capacities; Silences the Loud and Clamorous, and brings over the moſt Obſtinate and Inflexible. *Philip* of *Macedon* was a Man of moſt Invincible Reaſon this way. He refuted by it all the Wiſdom of *Athens*, confounded their Stateſmen, ſtruck their Orators Dumb, and at length argued them out of all their Liberties.

Having here touched upon the ſeveral Methods of Diſputing, as they have prevailed in different Ages of the World, I ſhall very ſuddenly give my Reader an Acount of the whole Art of Cavilling; which ſhall be a full and ſatisfactory Anſwer to all ſuch Papers and Pamphlets as have yet appeared againſt the *Spectator*.

ERRATA in laſt Thurſday's *Paper*, *Col.* 3. *Line* 10. *for* Force *read* Fence.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

Acted but once theſe Five Years

By Her Majeſty's Company of Comedians,

AT the Theatre Royal in Drury-Lane this preſent Tueſday, being the 4th Day of December, will be reviv'd a Play called, Verſus Betray'd; or, Anne Bullen. The Part of Anne Bullen by Mrs. Oldfield, King Harry the 8th by Mr. Powel, Cardinal Woolſey by Mr. Gibber, Northumberland by Mr. Keene, Piercy by Mr. Wilks, Rochford by Mr. Mills, Lady Diana Talbot by Mrs. Rogers, Lady Eliz. Blunt by Mrs. Porter, Young Princeſs Elizabeth by Miſs Smith. By her Majeſty's Command no Perſons are to be admitted behind the Scenes.

At the Deſire of ſeveral Gentlemen and Ladies.

AT the Riſing Sun in Wych-Street near Temple-Bar, on Wedneſday the 12. being the 5th of this Inſtant, will be a Maſquerade; each Perſon to pay half a Crown at entrance. Beginning exactly at 5 a Clock.

*** The Annual Feaſt for the Sons of the Clergy will be held at Merchant-Taylors-Hall in Threadneedle ſtreet on Thurſday the Sixth Day of December Inſtan. Tickets to be had at Mr. Hadley's, a Hab-maſher of Ha s, between the Two Temple-Gates; Mr. Richard Wright's, at the Black Perriwig in Broadſtreet; Mr. Turner's, at the White Hart near Charing Croſs; Mr. Carpenter's, Goldſmith in White-Chappel; Mr. Ward's, Goldſmith in the Borough of Southwark; Paſſon's Coffee houſe againſt the Royal-Exchange; Child's Coffee-houſe in St. Paul's Church-yard; Brown's Coffee-houſe in Mitre-Court, Fleet-ſtreet; Oliver's Coffee-houſe at Weſtminſter-Hall-Gate; and Anderton's Coffee houſe in Fleet-ſtreet. N. B. Stewards are provided for the Year enſuing.

Loſt from a Lady's Side going out of Trinity Chappel the 30th of November, a Gold Caſe of a reteating Watch chaced and pierced on the Caſe, with a Cypher, J. A. chas'd on the Bottom. If the Perſon, who found it, will bring it to Daniel Delander, Watchmaker in Dunſeux Court, ſhall have five Guineas reward and no Queſtions aſk'd. N. B. There is a new Invention by the ſaid D. Delander of a Spring, which is very nearly fixed to the Outſide, and will preſerve the Caſes being loſt or broke. This Spring is to be had in all manner of Watch Caſes.

For SALE by the CANDLE.

On Thurſday the 6th Inſtant, at Lloyd's Coffee-Houſe in Lombard-ſtreet, at 4 in the Afternoon, (only 1 Cask in a Lot) 13 Hhds and 2 Tierces of excellent French new White Wine; and 23 Pipes and 1 Hhd of excellent French Clarets, and other of the beſt Growths, deep, freſh, &c. neat, entire Parcels, lately landed; now in the Docks of Meſſieurs Alderoft and Berger, Merchants, at the Red Ale-houſe in Mincing-lane in Peachurch-ſtreet. To be ſeen and taſted this Day and to Morrow from 8 to 1, and from 3 to 5, and all Thurſday till the time of Sale. To be ſold by Thomas Brooker, in Seething-lane in Tower-ſtreet.

At the Mountain Wine-Cellar under the South-Sea Coffee houſe in Bread-ſtreet, is ſold by retail Mountain Malaga Wine at 6 l. 8 d. per Gallon or 18. 9d. per Bottle; and Red Viana Wine at 13 d. per Bottle; ſuch Perſons as take Gallons ſhall pay but 12 s. there being 13 Bottles, warranted all and pure from the Grape.

Wines to be ſold by Retail.

Excellent Red and White Port, and Red and White Lisbon, being neat Wines as they came from the Grape, of the Growth in Portugal. To be ſold by the Importer in a Vault at the Court in Philpot-Lane, viz. Red and White Port at 5 l. per Hhd. Red and White Lisbon at 5 l. 6 d. per Hhd. or 14 l. per Hhd. Attendance will be given every Day and at Night.

For Sale by Retail.

At the Wine Vault of Meſſieurs Smith and Co. under Thavies Inn againſt Hatton Garden, in Holbourn, are ſold new natural Red and White Oporto Wines, imported by and now arrived, and juſt landed, at 16 d. per Quart without Doors, 18 d. within; new Viana Red at 14 d. per Quart without Doors, 16 d. within; new Sherries at 20 d. per Quart; Mountain at 18 d. per Quart without Doors, and 20 d. within; Palm Canary at 20 d. per Quart without Doors, and 22. 4 d. within; Barcelona Deep, Brisk and Pale at 12 d. per Quart without Doors, and 14 d. within. Moſt of the aforeſaid Wines are in their natural Purity. There are good Cellars and Accommodations for Gentlemen.

Angelick Snuff: The moſt noble Compoſure in the World, removing all manner of Diſorders of the Head, in ceaſing the moſt excruciating Pain in a Moment; raiſing Swimming or Giddineſs proceeding from Vapours, &c. Dulneſs, Sleepineſs and other Lethargick Effects, perfectly reſtoring Quickneſs to Admiration, and all Humours or Sorenels in the Eyes, ſtrengthning them when weak, certainly cures Catarrhs, Defluxions of Rheum, and remedies the Tooth-ach inſtantly; is moſt beneficial in Apoplectick Fits and Falling Sickneſs, and effectually prevents thoſe Diſtempers; corroborates the Brain, comforts the Heart and revives the Spirits. Its admirable Efficacy in all the Diſeaſes it has been experienced above a Thouſand times, very juſtly cauſes it to be eſteem'd the moſt beneficial Snuff in the World, being good for all ſorts of Perſons. Price 1 s. 6 d. with Directions. Sold only at Mr. Payn's Toyſhop at the Angel in St. Paul's Churchyard near Cheapſide.

Juſt Publiſhed,

A Sermon againſt Popery, Preached to the Proteſtants of Ireland reſiding at London, at their Anniverſary Meeting October 23. 1711, in Commemoration of their Deliverance from barbarous Maſſacre committed by the Iriſh Papiſts in the Year 1641. in the Parish Church of St. Paul's Covent-Garden. By William Beveridge, B. D. Rector of Sutton in the County of Surry. The 2d Edition. Price 2 d. Neceſſary for all Families. Printed for A. Baldwin in Warwick-lane.

Juſt Publiſhed,

The Revolution: Or, The Redemption of God's People. A Sermon Preached at the Lord's-Day's Evening Lecture in the Old Jewry, November the 4th, 1711. Being the Birth-day of the Glorious King William of Glorious Memory. Published at the Requeſt of the Gentlemen who Encourage the Lecture. By Samuel Rowe, Miniſter of the Goſpel. Printed for J. Lawrence at the Angel in Poultry. Price 3 d.

Georgii Buchanani Scoti ad Viros ſui ſeculi Literatiſſimos eorumq; ad eundem Epiſtolæ ex MSS. accurate deſcriptæ primum in lucem Editæ. Londini, Impenſis D. Brown, A. Bell & J. Knapton, Nigri extra Portam vulgo dictam Temple-bar, & Guliel. Taylor, Regni Navis in vico vulgo dicto Pater-noſter-row, prope Ave-Mary-Lane. Where may be had Miſcellanea Antiqua, containing the Life of King James the 5th, his Navigation round Scotland, &c. To which is added the Chameleon, or Crafty Stateſman, Writ by G. Buchanan.

Lately Publiſhed,

Characteriſticks of Men, Manners, Opinions, Times. In three Volumes. Vol. I. containing a Letter concerning Enthuſiaſm. Senſus Communis, an Eſſay on the Freedom of Wit and Humour. Soliloquy, or Advice to an Author. Vol. II. Miſcellanies concerning Virtue and Merit. The Moraliſts, a Philoſophical Rhapſody. Vol. III. Miſcellaneous Reflections on the ſaid Treatiſes, and other Critical Subjects. Sold by D. Browne without Temple-Bar, J. Graves next White's Chocolate-houſe in St. James's-ſtreet, J. Walthoe in Exchange-Alley in Cornhil, and E. Sanger at the Poſt-Houſe in Fleetſtreet.

LONDON: Printed for *Sam. Buckley*, at the *Dolphin* in *Little-Britain*: Sold by *A. Baldwin* in *Warwick-Lane*; where Advertiſements are taken in alſo by *Charles Lillie*, Perfumer, at the Corner of *Beauford-Buildings* in the *Strand*.